

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An imaging apparatus, comprising:
 - a sensor;
 - a carrier system configured to transport said sensor along a scanning path;
 - a mid-frame having a slot formed along said scanning path;
 - 5 a print media support for holding a supply of print media; and
 - a print media detection device positioned below said mid-frame, said print media detection device including a first end and a second end, said first end having a sense surface, wherein said sensor senses one of a presence and an absence of said sense surface in said slot of said mid-frame as a determination of the depletion of said
 - 10 supply of print media at said print media support.
2. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, wherein when said print media is present at said print media support, said sense surface is not positioned in said slot of said mid-frame for detection by said sensor, and wherein if said print media is not present at said print media support, said sense surface is positioned in said slot of said
- 5 mid-frame for detection by said sensor.
3. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, wherein said print media detection device includes a pivot axis disposed between said first end of said print media detection device and said second end of said print media detection device, said second end engaging a topmost sheet of said print media when said print media is
- 5 present at said print media support.
4. The imaging apparatus of claim 3, wherein said print media detection device pivots about said pivot axis until said sense surface of said print media detection device is positioned in said slot of said mid-frame, in the absence of said print media at said print media support.
5. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, said print media detection device being positioned between said mid-frame and said print media support, said second end

engaging a topmost sheet of said print media when said print media is present at said print media support.

6. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a display device; and

5 a controller coupled to display device and coupled to said sensor, said sensor sending a signal to said controller indicating an absence of said print media at said print media support when said sensor senses the presence of said sense surface of said print media detection device in said slot of said mid-frame, said controller causing an indication to be generated at said display device to indicate said absence of said print media at said print media support.

7. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, wherein said print media support is a front-loading print media tray.

8. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sensor is an optical sensor.

9. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, said carrier system including a printhead carrier configured to carry at least one ink jet printhead, said sensor being mounted to said printhead carrier.

10. The imaging apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a C-shaped print media path coupled between said print media support and said mid-frame to facilitate delivery of a print media sheet from said supply of print media at said print media support to said mid-frame.

11. A method for performing print media depletion detection in an imaging apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing a mid-frame having a slot;

providing a sensor locatable over said slot;

5 providing a print media support for holding a supply of print media;

providing a print media detection device having a sense surface; and

detecting with said sensor one of a presence and an absence of said sense surface in said slot of said mid-frame as a determination of the depletion of said supply of print media at said print media support.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein when said print media is present at said print media support, said sense surface is not positioned in said slot of said mid-frame, and wherein if said print media is not present at said print media support, said sense surface is positioned in said slot of said mid-frame for detection by said sensor.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said sense surface is formed at a first end of said print media detection device and a second end of said print media detection device engages a topmost sheet of said print media when said print media is present at said print media support.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step defining a pivot axis for said print media detection device disposed between said first end of said print media detection device and said second end of said print media detection device.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said print media detection device pivots about said pivot axis until said sense surface of said print media detection device is positioned in said slot of said mid-frame in the absence of said print media at said print media support.

16. The imaging apparatus of claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying at a display device an indication of an absence of said print media at said print media support when said sensor senses the presence of said sense surface in said slot of said mid-frame.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein said print media support is a front-load print media tray.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein said sensor is an optical sensor.